

Festival: Christmas ~ Storysack	Year Group: Foundation stage	No. of lessons: 2
Links: Cambs. CPE2, CFF1, CFF2 Pborough: CPE2, CPE3, CRC1, CRC2, CRC3, Nfolk:CKF, CLS, CP,		
Learning objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To hear that Jesus is special for Christians, who tell stories about him ◆ To find out that Christmas is a time of special celebration in the church ◆ To explore some ways in which Christmas is celebrated ◆ To be able to take part in a Christmas celebration 		
Questions for reflection: I wonder what an angel might look like. Why did the angels go and tell the shepherds about baby Jesus? Why do Christians think that Jesus is a special baby?(at any point) What do you think happened next?		
Activities and experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Hide a mystery item under a beautiful cloth and let the children guess what it could be. Reveal a complete surprise and ask them if it reminds them of a woman who had surprising news from an angel. Briefly, recap on the story of the annunciation. ◆ Put a nativity set into a special bag (the plastic nativity set from the Early Learning Centre is the best we've found so far) with several children's versions of the Christmas Story. (<i>First remove the Wise Men, and save for use at Epiphany.</i>) Tell the story using the storysack, and then let a group of children have the storysack to re-tell the story on their own ◆ Use the book by Martin B. ~ Brown Bear, Brown Bear, what do you see? (pub. Puffin 0-14-050296-3) and adapt the poem to re-tell the Christmas story. This can legitimately be done in an English lesson, as long as the learning objectives are from the Literacy Strategy, and can then be followed up in an RE lesson as the children learn more about the Bible story. ◆ Use the school nativity costumes to dress up and re-enact the story. Turn the role-play corner into a stable (sacking on the floor, crib, and 2 stools) with a star overhead. If you have used the above idea with the adaptation of the poem, you will find that the children can recite the poem as they play out the story. ◆ Make finger puppets to re-tell the story; sticking them on to lolly sticks is easier than trying to put fingers inside. Children can work in a group to make one puppet each, and then either recount the story they have heard, or make up their own version. 		